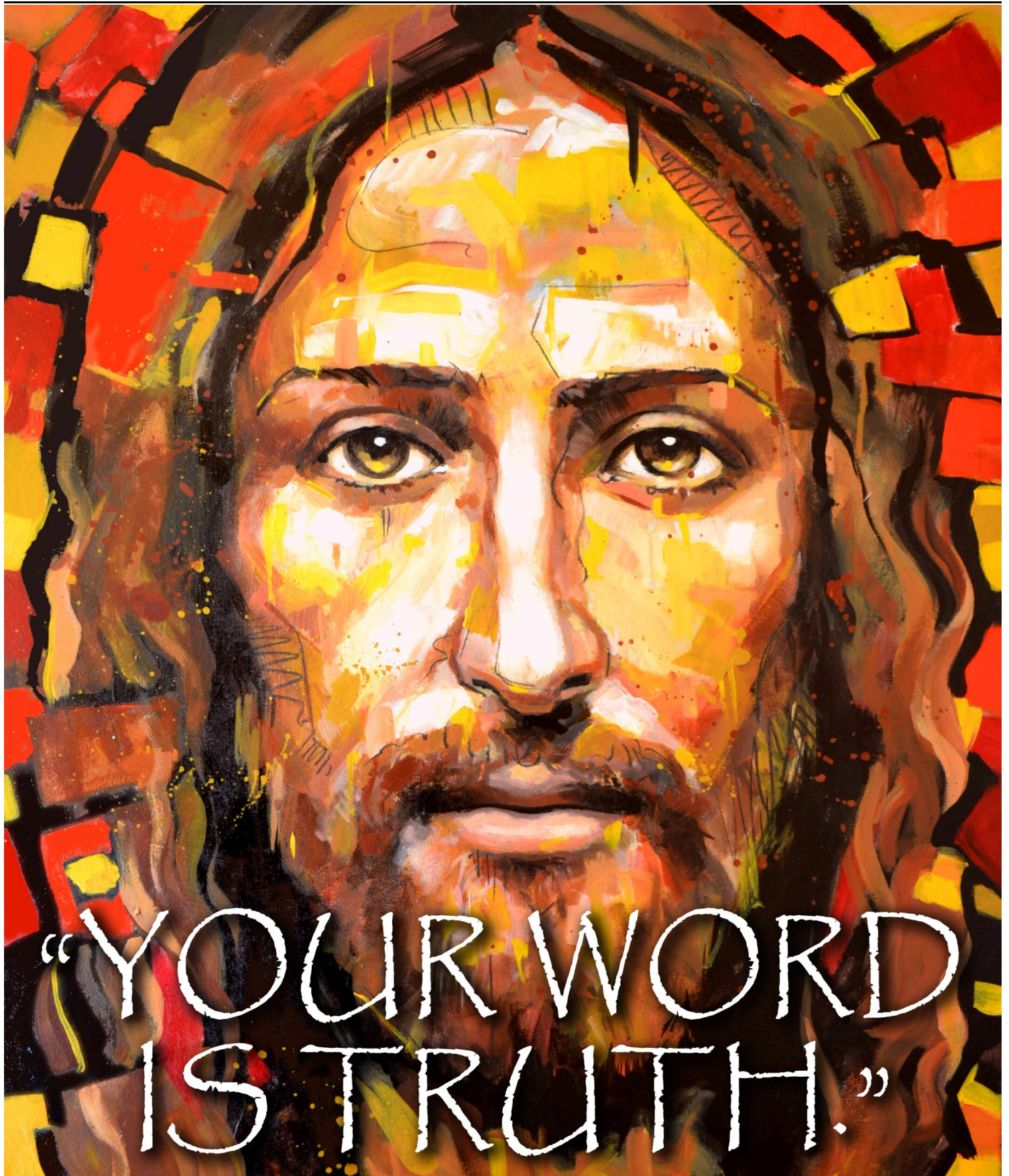


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • www.saintjohnpottsville.org

Seventh Sunday of Easter • May 16th, 2021



Mass Intentions

Monday, May 17

9:00 a.m. Edward Brominski Sr.
(Dan & Hermine Murphy)

Tuesday, May 18

9:00 a.m. Holy Souls

Wednesday, May 19

9:00 a.m. Georgene Jones
(Babe Murphy Family)

Thursday, May 20

9:00 a.m. Clara Rose Fahim
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

Friday, May 21

9:00 a.m. William O'Neill Sr.
(John, Cathy, Hannah
Kostick)

Saturday, May 22

5:00 p.m. Catherine Dalton
(Hoy & Dalton Families)

Sunday, May 23

8:15 a.m. Cathy Mooney Troup
(Nora Chiplonia)

Sunday, May 23

10:30 a.m. Catherine Bortzel

Next Week's Readings

Pentecost Sunday (May 22—Vigil)

Reading I: Genesis 11:1-9

Reading II: Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b

Reading III: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Reading IV: Joel 3:1-5

Gospel: John 7:27-39

Pentecost Sunday (May 23)

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Reading II: Galatians 5:16-25

Gospel: John 20:19-23

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

This past Thursday we celebrated the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. In the first reading for that day from Acts of the Apostles, we hear that two men dressed in white garments were standing by the apostles saying "Men of Galilee why are you standing there looking up at the sky?" This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way you have seen him going into heaven.

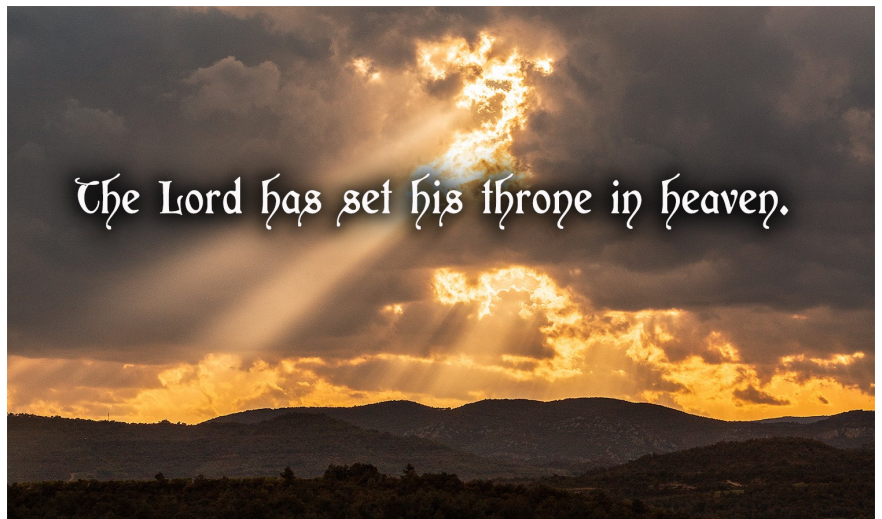
Like the image from that story of the Ascension, when concerned about a serious problem, do we stand around looking up at the sky hoping for an easy answer to drop down on us or do we look at the situation and each other for a way forward?

Before we answer too quickly we might consider a both/and approach.

This Sunday's gospel from John begins with Jesus lifting his eyes to heaven in prayer for the disciples as they face the difficulties of their ministry. It reminds us of the insight attributed to Saint Augustine about praying as if everything depended on God and working as if all depended on us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Dave



The Lord has set his throne in heaven.



Pray

For Our Sick

We remember in prayer those who are ill or recently deceased. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

Patricia Thomas

The Rosary

Recite the rosary daily during the month of May, which is dedicated to the Blessed Mother. There is no prayer more pleasing to Our Lady and more efficacious in asking for her intercession.

Upcoming Events

May

16	4:30 p.m.	Street Evangelization Training (until 6:00 p.m.) F.R.
17	7:00 p.m.	Holy Hour/Adoration, Music, and Confessions.... Church
19	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union L.H.
23	1:00 p.m.	Young Adult Backyard BBQ and Reflection Outside
23	4:30 p.m.	Street Evangelization Training (until 6:00 p.m.) F.R.
30	4:30 p.m.	Street Evangelization Training (until 6:00 p.m.) F.R.
31	9:00 a.m.	Memorial Day Mass (weather permitting) Cemetery

L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building

Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Men’s GroupZoom Meeting ID: 824-780-6433 Password: Mary
Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Rosary Facebook
Sat.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Rosary Facebook Facebook Page: St. John The Baptist Catholic Parish Family



Weekly Collection

May 8/9\$5,149.00
Parish Dues\$1,020.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Please do not use tape or staples to seal your offertory envelopes.

Candle Donations

BVM

1. IMO Ronald C. Kriston by Eleanor Kriston Family
2. Special Intention

St. Joseph

1. IMO Joseph E. Rosenberger by Barbara Wollyung
2. IMO Josephine Cavanaugh by Hahner Family

Sanctuary

Special Intention
by Mary Jean Morgalis

Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO Ramon Grapsy by Joan Grapsy
- 3&4. IMO Debbie Bowers by Joan Bowers



Year of Real
PRESENCE
CENTERED IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Holy Hour/Adoration, Music, and Confessions

Celebrate the Year of Real Presence on Monday, May 17th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for an evening of worship before the Blessed Sacrament. Light piano instrumental worship music will be interspersed with periods of prayerful silence. Confessions will be available for the first half hour.



St. John’s Catholic Women’s Union

Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women’s Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women’s Union by joining us on Wednesday, May 19th at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall. Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. We share ideas and light refreshments are served. We work to raise money for our parish and have fun doing it. We also share in fellowship by sharing in a Spring and Fall Auction, Christmas Party, and the Spring Covered Dish Party. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed.

Reminder: Donations to the Bakeless Bake Sale are now due. Please make your returns as soon as possible. For more information call St. John’s Rectory: 622-5470.



Young Adult Backyard BBQ and Reflection

Calling all young adults 18-35. Come out for an afternoon of food, fun, and faith on Sunday, May 23 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Specialty kebabs by Father Dave, refreshments, lawn games, and a reflection offered by Maggie Riggins.

Volunteers Needed

Meals on Wheels Delivery

Please join fellow parishioners and families helping to deliver boxes of food to Meals on Wheels consumers on the following Saturdays: May 22, and June 12. Please contact the rectory if you can help.



Curiosity Shop / Yard Sale -- Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the May Curiosity Shop/Yard Sale. Thank you also to all those who purchased items, donated baked goods, or volunteered to work at the sale. We are very grateful for all your support!

Special thank you to *Joe & Maureen Kurtek* for making and donating the delicious bean soup.

Our Volunteers *Kate Blackwell, Mary Bound, Ann Burns, Kathryn Carroll, Joan Deiter, Millie Fredericks, Karla Garland, Mary Beth Harvey, Pat Klassen, Lucilla Kochol, Jan Kurtek, Carol Lasco, Frances Lorenz, Charlene Leshner, Patty O'Neill, Reene Reddington, Carol Rehnert, Theresa Skrobak, Linda Smith, Barbara Wollyung.*

Our Bakers *Mary Bound, Kathryn Carroll, Joan Deiter, Millie Fredericks, Karla Garland, Jan Kurtek, Frances Lorenz, Hilda Maley, Marie McMurtrie, Carole Quirin*

Total Profits: \$ 1,390.05



New Bench for Our Grotto

May is the month to honor and celebrate our mothers and to deepen our relationship with Our Blessed Mother. Take some time this month to visit St John's beautiful grotto behind the church to pray and strengthen your devotion to Mary in thanksgiving for the blessings that God has given us. Parishioners, Bob and Susan Hahner, have placed a bench at the grotto in honor of all mothers and for everyone's use for prayer and meditation.



Holy Communion at Our Parish

- Communion in the Hands, the original way the early Church received for several centuries, is the preferred and most hygienic way to receive. (Eucharistic Ministers sanitize their hands before distributing Communion.)
- "Make a throne of your hands to receive your King." (St. Cyril of Jerusalem 348 A.D.) Grabbing the host with 2 fingers or placing your hands side by side so the Host could fall through is not appropriate. One hand should be UNDER the other so as to take the Host and place it in your mouth.
- The correct response is, "Amen!" (So be it!) when the minister says, "The Body/Blood of Christ."
- Make sure not a particle is wasted. Tell me, if you were given gold dust, would you not hold it carefully for fear of letting any of it fall and losing it? How much more careful should you be, not to let fall even a crumb of something MORE precious than gold or jewels.
- Profound bows (from the waist) and genuflecting before communion are not designated in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. Both can cause accidents. People have tripped over those genuflecting in the Communion line.
- Intinction (dipping the Sacred Host into the Precious Blood) is permitted ONLY by a priest or deacon.



His Excellency, Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, has modified the restrictions to the Sacred Liturgy within the Diocese of Allentown, effective 22-23 May 2021, the Solemnity of Pentecost, at which time NO CAPACITY LIMITATIONS will be required in parishes and institutions within the geographical territory of the Diocese of Allentown.

The following Guidelines remain in place, until further notice:

#5 - In accord with the updated mitigation standards of the Centers for Disease Control, it is not necessary to continue to sanitize pews after each liturgical gathering. The Church should be cleaned on a weekly basis. Door knobs and other points of contact should be sanitized on a more regular basis. The faithful should continue to utilize hand sanitizer prior to entering the Church. If there has been someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 72 hours, you must clean and disinfect the Church immediately.

#21 - For the distribution of Holy Communion, the Priest, Deacon or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion must wear a facemask.

#22 - Facemasks are to be worn by all of the lay faithful.

#24 - Stations with sanitizer should be placed near the entrance of the Church, in the Sacristy, and a small table with a corporal and hand sanitizer should be placed near the Communion station. If the Priest or Deacon senses that his fingers have made contact with a person's hand or if a person receives Holy Communion on the tongue, the minister must dip his finger in an ablution cup filled with rubbing alcohol or sanitizer.

#28 - Altar servers are permitted; however, their duties may not include holding the *Roman Missal* or other liturgical books in front of the Celebrant.

#31 - A *schola* is permitted that is properly distanced in a choir loft. Each Pastor may determine the suitable number of people able to sing based on the size of the loft. A full choir is not permitted.

40 - The Exchange of the Sign of Peace is not permitted

41 - The Reception of Holy Communion by the Faithful remains under one species (the Sacred Host) only.



Proclaim
the Gospel

May 16, 2021

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11 | Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13 |
Mk 16:15-20

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

“Why are you standing there looking at the sky?” the Apostles are asked. Well, hello! The risen Jesus, who had once again walked among the Apostles, “was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.” Of course the disciples would look up, to gaze once more upon the Son of God whom they loved. Today’s feast reminds us, however, that to look for Jesus is not to stand around looking up, but to engage with others in the world in which he remains present. Even as he sits “at the right hand of God,” Jesus dwells among and within us. For God is not some distant figure, but One who desires to walk alongside us in the person of his Son, Jesus, and give us the gift of the Holy Spirit as our help and advocate. Even in times when we experience doubt, complacency, or simply feel distant from God, Jesus is at our side. Once we open our hearts to his presence, we cannot help but share the Good News of God’s love in our families, workplaces, and everyday encounters with others.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

For anyone wishing to grow in their understanding of what evangelization looks like, today’s readings offer as good a playbook as any. As we celebrate the Ascension, we may be tempted to see it as a kind of “farewell party” for Jesus. But while on the surface, it may appear that Jesus “left” the Apostles, he promises to remain with them through the gift of the Holy Spirit. What does that mean for us? Today’s Gospel sums it up, quoting Jesus’ words immediately before he was taken up to heaven: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” As Catholics and Christians, that’s our bottom line. I read somewhere that “proclaim” goes beyond mere words, and encompasses living out the Gospel by sharing God’s love. Jesus remains at our side, encouraging us to use the gifts God has given us to build up the Church.

PRAY Today’s feast reminds us that we have an advocate in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. As you enter a challenging situation or even just a typical day, remember to ask Jesus to give you a “spirit of wisdom.”



A Mass of Remembrance

For those who have experienced the loss of a child

**Monday, May 17, 2021
6:30 PM**

St. John XXIII Church
307 Pine St. Tamaqua



Parents, families and friends are all welcome to attend this special Mass to acknowledge and remember those losses that touched our lives and whose memory lives in our hearts.

If you know of family or friends who have experienced this unique loss, please invite them to attend this regional gathering.

Pastor*Rev. David J. Loeper*
Deacons..... *Luis R. Visot and Lawrence Lonergan*

Pastoral Assistant*Bobby Rienzo*
Parish Council
President *Robert Bechtel*
Choir Director/Organist . *David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator*Lucilla Kochol*

Rectory (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax..... (570) 622-4589
E-mail..... stjbparish@comcast.net
Russell Building (570) 628-3002
Nativity BVM
High School..... (570) 622-8110
Assumption BVM
Elementary (570) 622-0106
St. Joseph Center (570) 622-4638

Cemetery Information (570) 622-5470

Bulletin Deadline
Tuesday prior to publication

C.C.D.
All children preparing to receive any sacrament must be in a Religious Education Program for two consecutive years immediately prior to receiving a Sacrament. The child must also be a practicing Catholic.

Certificates of Eligibility
Certificates to act as sponsors, godparents, etc. will only be issued to parishioners who are formally registered with the church and attend Mass on a regular basis.

New Parishioners
Please call the rectory for an appointment to register.

Sick Calls
Please notify the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays4:15 to 4:45 p.m.
Sundays... 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 to 10:15 a.m. or by appointment

Sacrament of Marriage
Please call the rectory one year in advance.

Sacrament of Baptism
First Sunday of each month. 11:30 a.m.
Second Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Mass
Baptismal Preparation for parents must precede the Baptism. Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service..... (800) 276-1562

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator
Wendy S. Krisak, N.C.C., L.P.C.(800) 791-9209

Office of Safe Environment
Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S.
Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services
P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538
610-871-5200 ext. 2204
prusso@allentowndiocese.org